

Compressor Blowdowns



Potential Environmental Impacts:

Air compressor blowdown water commonly contains lubricating oil or other potential pollutants. These hydrocarbons can contaminate surface and groundwater when improperly managed.

Legal Requirements:

- Compressor blowdown water may not be discharged into the ground or surface water without a permit [CGS §22a-430].
- Either discharge air compressor blowdown water to sanitary sewer, or contain it in a holding tank. You may not discharge this wastewater into a septic system. If you send less than 500 gallons of blowdown water per day to the municipal sewer, filing for a CT-DEP permit is not required, but you must follow all the BMPs listed below to ensure that the lubricating oil is removed from the water before discharge. If you send more than 500 gallons per day to the municipal sewer, contact CT-DEP's Bureau of Water Management at (860) 424-3018 for more information on the *General Permit for Miscellaneous Discharges of Sewer Compatible (MiSC) Wastewater*.
- Waste compressor oil, filters and oil/water separator waste must be managed as used oil [40 CFR 279; RCSA §22a-449(c)-119]. See Appendix C for more information.

Best Management Practices:

- ★ Evaluate the need for installing a dehumidifying system in the air compressor which would reduce the moisture content of the compressed air and therefore the volume of wastewater generated. This practice may also prolong the life of the compressor by reducing loss of lubrication and rusting.
- ★ Visually inspect the exterior of air compressor equipment for the presence of oil leaks on a regular basis.
- ★ Establish a preventative maintenance program which includes, but is not limited to, a schedule for cleaning parts, replacing oil, and replacing filters for the air compressor equipment as recommended in the manufacturer's specifications.
- ★ Remove or retain any floating layer of oil prior to discharge.
- ★ Investigate purchase of oil-free air compressor that would eliminate oil from the blowdown water.

Checklist for Clean Marina Certification:

No Clean Marina Certification criteria specific to compressor blowdowns.